The pumping station in 2012

and the River Lark.

Two stations have been installed with Blackstone oil engine-driven plants practically identical.

The Brandon station has had one season's run and, during the 100 days it has worked, it has not been found necessary to use a spanner on the engine or to clean a valve of any sort.

A remarkable feature of the pump supplied by Gwynnes Engineering Company was the complete absence of vibration. Several of the guests placed coppers on end on the pump and not fell from the position in which it was placed.

There were no speeches at the opening ceremony which occupied only a moment or two. Mr Ludding-ton simply opening a valve which set the engine in motion. Immediately vast quantities of water were being pumped into the River Lark.

## Parker's Piece hosts Peace Day – 1919

THE Peace Day Festival in Cambridge may be written down as a decided success.

In the main event of the day – a huge dinner on Parker's Piece to the discharged and demobilised men of the borough – there was not a hitch of any kind.

The arrangements were as near perfect as could be secured and the men seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

The town presented a gay appearance, all the principal thoroughfares being decorated with flags, streamers, etc. Nearly every side-street, too, had its decorations: flags and bunting everywhere.

Immediately, under the Guildhall clock, was a large laurel wreath in the centre of which were the words: "Their name liveth for evermore."

At intervals during the day, peals were rung on church bells. Several of the business premises in the town were illuminated with coloured lights during the evening.

## James Brown survives sea attack – 1915

PTE James Brown from Chatteris was one of 40 men who set out for the landing in one boat, 34 never got to shore.

His chum by his side was riddled with nine bullets and Brown had his boot heel shot off, a bullet through his cap and through his pack.

Three days later, he was wounded in the face; one eye was blown right out and the other has since been removed; half of one ear is missing. Otherwise, he is well.

## Wheel comes off police bandsmen trip – 1909

THE first visit of the Cambridge police force band to Coton some years ago will not soon be forgotten.

A resident had arranged for a wagonette for their conveyance but, when turning a corner by Gt St Mary's, they were surprised to see a wheel careering along beside them and the wagon gracefully toppled over, depositing the bandsmen in the roadway.

They continued by charabanc but their former driver was accosted by a policeman and ordered to 'clear that wreckage away' or he would be run in.

Considering he had brought it over for the conveyance of the police band, his indignation can be imagined.

## Kids go wild for adventure park fun – 1979

IT is the start of an intensive six-week season at the Arbury adventure playground.

Between 150 and 300 children will daily pour into the enclosure off Wagstaff Close.

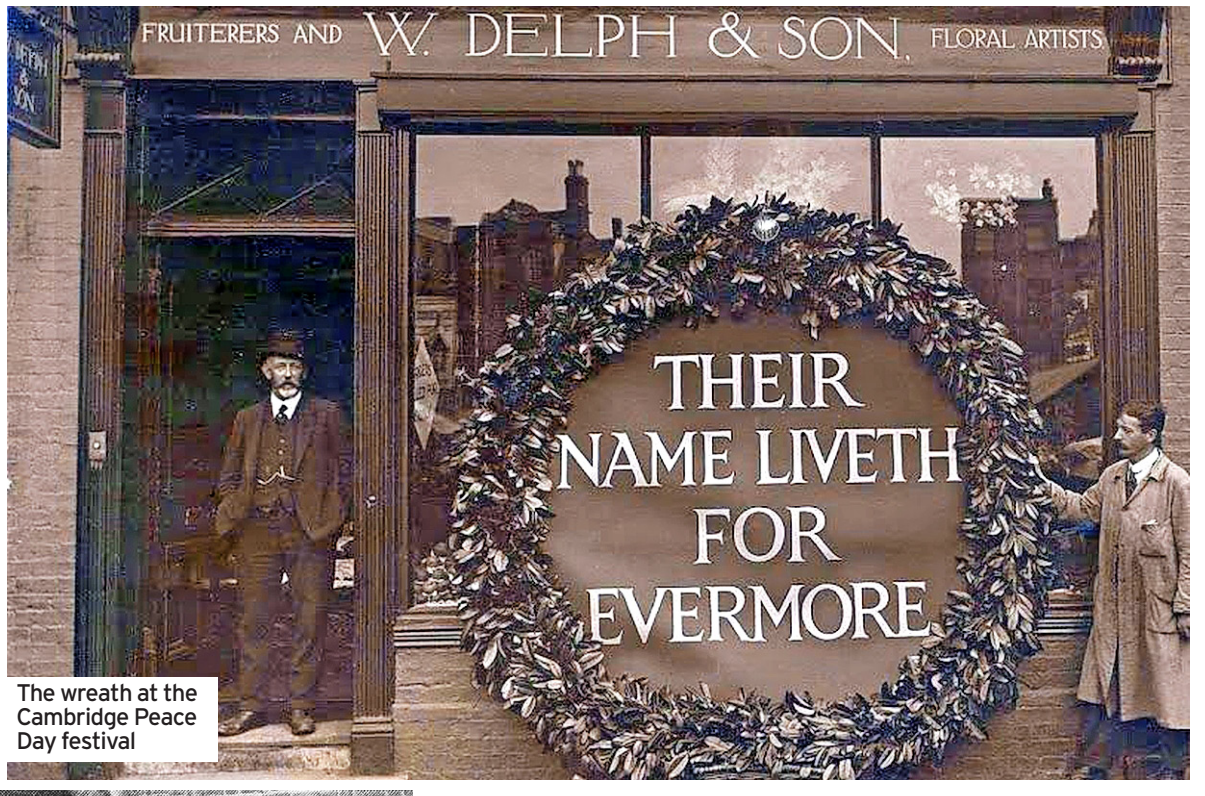
It is laid out like an outpost of the US Cavalry after the Indians have been.

There is a 10-foot-high perimeter stockade, big main gates, and a high watch tower in the middle. In one corner is the livestock, all snuffling, clucking and crowing.

On another is 'Venus', an old landing craft looking rather washed up and, nearer the middle, a large battered playhut.

It is not for the fastidious or tidy-minded but it is an excellent place to light fires, cook sausages and potatoes and melt down old cola cans into aluminium ingots.

Children at the adventure playground in Arbury in 1987




The wreath at the Cambridge Peace Day festival

Cambridge police force band in 1901

## Keep up to date with the past

- Read Mike Petty's Cambridgeshire Scrapbook to search for other stories.
- Join Fenland History on Facebook to share your photos and information.
- Follow James Milner on Twitter to receive regular updates each weekend.
- Take a trip down Memory Lane to search for, share and colourise photos.
- Subscribe to Mike Petty's YouTube channel to listen to some of this talks.